



Embassy of the United States, Addis Ababa

Volume 7, Issue 26

July 7, 2005

Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

Ambassador Brazeal Visits SNNPR

Visit highlights U.S. Support for Health Care, Education, Natural Resources

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) – On Thursday, June 30, Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal joined officials and health-care workers to inaugurate a new rural health post in the Gamo Gofa Zone of the Southern Nation, Nationalities and People's Region (SNNPR). The inauguration was part of a visit to the SNNPR that also included calls at Arba Minch University and Arba Minch College of Teacher Education, meetings with regional religious leaders, and the opportunity to experience first-hand some of the Region's extraordinary natural resources and its rich cultural diversity.

Laka Health Post is the latest in a collaboration between the United



Amb. Brazeal receives warm welcome in Dorze Laka, SNNPR

States, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, and Ethio-

pia's Ministry of Health that has to date provided \$199,000 (1.7 million Birr) for the construction of 61 health posts in SNNPR. In addition, USAID has provided US \$188,000 (1.6 million Birr) for the procurement of medical equipment, including kerosene refrigerators for a total of 86 health posts in the region.

Speaking at the inauguration, Ambassador Brazeal saluted those responsible for the success of the program. She noted that the opening of the Dorze Laka facility was "an opportunity to celebrate the construction of

(Continued on page 2)

Bush Proposes New African Anti-Poverty Initiatives for G8

By Aviva Altmann
Washington File Staff
Writer

Washington -- On the eve of the Group of Eight (G8) Summit, where Africa is slated to be a major focus, President Bush has reaffirmed the commitment of the United States to partner with African countries to respond

to their economic, political and health challenges.

He also announced three new initiatives to be presented at the summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, that are designed to help eradicate poverty in Africa through broader education, enhanced justice for women and a more robust fight against the conti-

nent's leading killer, malaria.

In a June 30 speech in Washington attended by many African ambassadors and senior officials in his administration, Bush reviewed the breadth and scope of the U.S. involvement in Africa.

(Continued on page 2)

Trio Chicago & Friends in Pictures (P 4)

Aid to Africa

U.S. Seeks to Expand Partnerships with African Nations, Bush Says (P 5)

Bush Malaria, Education Initiatives Support Africa's Future (P 6)

U.S. Aid Efforts to Africa Are Unmatched, Says Official (P 7)

Bush to Increase U.S. Funding to Fight Malaria by \$1.2 Billion (P 8)

President Announces \$400 Million for Africa Education Initiative (P 10)

Bush Announces \$55 Million for Women's Empowerment in Africa (P 11)

LIVE 8 to Span Globe with Nine Different Concerts (P12)

American news

Bush Hails Independence Day, "Enduring Power of Our Ideals" (P 14)

Islam Has Deep Roots in America, Experts Say (P 15)

Number of International Travelers to U.S. Growing, Commerce Says (P 17)

Visiting Students Find Americans Don't Fit Stereotypes (P 18)

"Food Culture USA" Highlights Diversity of American Cuisine (P 20)

Journal Offers Background, History of U.S. Supreme Court (P 22)

United States Ambassador Visits . . .

health posts and the expansion of health services throughout Ethiopia. I want to congratulate, as well, the many people here in Gamo Gofa Zone who have helped make this health post a reality as they have joined communities across Ethiopia in the improvement of health services across the country."

The construction of health posts and deployment of health extension workers represents the momentum of the Ethiopian Government's innovative community health program—the Health Services Extension Program (HSEP). The focus of this program is to expand outreach activities and to increase access to preventive and promotive health care at the community and household levels. Similar assistance to the Health Services Extension Program (HSEP) is being pro-

vided to Amhara and Oromiya regions, with special attention to equipment required for childhood immunizations.



Amb. Brazeal, Dr. Tedros Adhanom, State Minister of health (left) USAID Director Bill Hammink (far left) and SNNPR president Hail Mariam Desalegn (right) with residents of Dorze Laka

Ambassador Brazeal also visited Nechisar National Park and toured the historic Konso area. She com-

mented that "the United States government remains committed to wildlife conservation and to developing eco-tourism activities in Ethiopia," pointing out that U.S. support in these areas has ranged from elephant-conservation projects at Mago and Babile National Parks to a recent exchange program on biotechnology with key Ethiopian universities. The United States is also aiding Ethiopia to increase access to modern and environmental friendly energy services in urban and rural areas through the African Rift Geothermal Energy initiative (ARGE0).

Ambassador Brazeal's visit to SNNPR is part of her ongoing program of travel throughout Ethiopia, which has taken her to every region of the country. ♦

Bush Proposes New African Anti-Poverty Initiatives . . .

(Continued from page 1)

From humanitarian assistance to aid and trade, from international peacekeeping in Darfur to security and conflict resolution, from HIV/AIDS programs to environmental protection, Bush outlined U.S. plans to work with African nations and institutions to improve life across the continent.

Specifically, Bush proposed to double the current funding for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) African Education Initiative, which would provide \$400 million to train half a million teachers and grant scholarships for 300,000 young

people, mostly girls, within the next four years. He stressed the importance of education for women, which enables them to become more productive and responsible citizens in politics and the economy and on all social levels.

An important aspect of empowerment and the fight against AIDS "is the legal protection of women and girls against sexual violence and abuse," Bush said. To promote protection and justice for African women, the president proposed a grant of \$55 million to four African nations that have shown exemplary legal treatment of women and said he would en-

courage the other members of the G8 to provide similar support.

The president also said he would be urging the countries of the G8, as well as private organizations, to begin an aggressive campaign to halve the mortality rate for malaria, which, he noted, took approximately 1 million lives in Africa last year alone, a majority of which were among children 5 years old or younger.

To cut the malaria death rates, Bush proposed an initiative that would provide indoor spraying; long-lasting, insecticide-treated nets; and effective new combina-

(Continued on page 3)

Bush Proposes New African Anti-Poverty Initiatives . . .

(Continued from page 2)

tion drugs to treat malaria in three countries in 2006: Tanzania, Uganda and Angola. The program would add four countries in 2007, and an additional five countries in 2008, with projected spending reaching \$1.2 billion over the next five years.

The president will try to gain the support of G8 members for this proposal in order to extend treatment and prevention methods to an additional 15 countries, with the hope of saving the lives of hundreds of thousands of Africans.

These proposals will be brought to the G8 summit as a follow-up to an earlier finance ministers' decision to forgive \$40 billion of debt owed by 18 of the world's poorest countries, 14 of which are African.

"We're determined not only to relieve debt, but to erase it, so nations in need can face the future with a clean slate," Bush said.

"The whole world will benefit from prosperity and stability on the African continent. And the peoples of Africa deserve the peace and freedom and opportunity that are the natural rights of all mankind," the president said.

He said the United States has "tripled overseas development aid to Africa" during his presidency, and he proposes to double the current amount of aid to Africa by 2010.

But sending new financial resources to Africa is not enough, Bush said. "Our greatest challenge is to get beyond empty symbolism and discredited policies, and match our good intentions with good re-

sults," he said, and he outlined specific areas he wishes to focus on.

First, he emphasized the importance of economic aid. "Economic aid that expects little will achieve little. Economic aid that expects



President Bush speaks about the upcoming G8 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, at the Freer Gallery, June 30, 2005, in Washington.

much can help to change the world," he stressed.

He lauded the Millennium Challenge Corporation, established a year and a half ago, as a new approach to assistance that rewards governments of developing countries "that fight corruption, embrace democratic government, encourage free markets, and invest in the health and education of their people" with a long-term aid package.

The president also underscored

the importance of economic aid going hand-in-hand with free trade. "While aid and debt relief can create better conditions for development, it is trade that provides the engine for development," he said.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which has reduced trade barriers between the United States and Africa, has already led to an increase in trade between the two.

Referring to the achievements of his Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which he called the "largest health initiative in history," the president noted expansion of AIDS testing facilities, training of doctors and nurses, upgrading of hospitals, care for orphans, AIDS prevention programs, and anti-retroviral treatment that has already reached more than 230,000 adults and children in Africa.

President Bush concluded by stating, "When we work with Africans to bring food to starving regions, and malaria treatments to remote villages, and miracle drugs that restore the dying to strength, this is part of our calling in the world. And as we answer that call, it makes us proud to be Americans."

For the text of the president's speech, see "United States Is Africa's Partner and Friend, Bush Says (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng-lish&y=2005&m=June&x=20050630162747IHecuoR0.0356409&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>)."

Trio Chicago & Friends Highlight American Musical Heritage

Appearing in Ethiopia for the third time in as many years, the dynamic musical ensemble Trio Chicago, made up of pianist Lyudmila Lakisova and violinists Marlou Johnston and Elliott Golub (joined this year by soprano Alyssa Bennett and flautist Laura Hamm, and therefore appearing as Trio Chicago & Friends) has spent the first week of July traveling and performing across the country, with concerts in Jimma (to a crowd of over 3,000) and Mekelle as well as in Addis Ababa. On Wednesday, July 6, the group played works by jazz great Bill Evans, composer/conductor Leonard Bernstein, and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer John Harbison, among others, at a special musical evening hosted by Ambassador Brazeal.



Ambassador Brazeal (center) and ensemble members (left to right) Marlou Johnston, Elliott Golub, Laura Hamm, and Lyudmila Lakisova.

Photo Credit: Sam Westgate



Trio Chicago & Friends prepare to perform

U.S. Seeks to Expand Partnerships with African Nations, Bush Says

President Bush told the Times of London June 29 that the United States is looking to pledge more aid and expand partnerships with African nations willing to make reforms.

Both Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair have pledged to make aid to sub-Saharan Africa a central topic at the upcoming summit of the Group of Eight (G8) nations, which includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and Russia).

In addition to Africa, Bush said he is looking forward to summit discussions about Middle East peace, the spread of freedom and democracy, and climate change.

U.S. assistance to Africa "has been significant and there will be some more," Bush said. But he added that he sees the U.S. relationship with Africa as one of "partnership Partnership means that we've got obligations and so do the people we're trying to help; a sense of working together."

He said programs in which development assistance is tied to reforms, such as the Millennium Challenge Account initiative, are "a new way of approaching how we work together in partnership to alleviate poverty and hunger."

Americans want to help, he said, "but they don't want their money being spent on governments that do not focus attention on health, education, markets, anti-corruption."

Bush also cited other types of assistance the United States had made available to Africa, such as

efforts to open up markets for African goods, disaster assistance; food programs; funding for drug treatment for HIV/AIDS victims and HIV vaccine research, and substantial private contributions from U.S. citizens.

During the interview, Bush also condemned human rights abuses by Robert Mugabe's government in Zimbabwe, but said he would not cut aid to the southern African country.

"I don't think you ought to punish the people of Africa because of the man who's in power," Bush said. "He's already done that."

Discussing global climate change, Bush said the G8 summit "will be a great opportunity to be able to discuss not only how we can be good stewards of the environment, but how we can develop strategies to become less dependent on hydrocarbons and fossil fuels."

He said he believes that greenhouse gases "are creating a problem, a long-term problem that we've got to deal with Step one of dealing with it is to fully understand the nature of the problem so that the solutions that follow make sense."

The United States is "leading the way" in developing alternatives to fossil fuels such as carbon sequestration, zero-emission coal-fired electricity plants, biodiesel fuel and nuclear power, he said.

"Technology, with the right government focus and help, is going to change how we live and will make us more economically secure," said Bush.

On Iran's new president-elect Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Bush said that "time will tell" whether he can hold a serious dialogue with the West. Ahmadinejad is scheduled to participate in upcoming discussions on Iran's nuclear ambitions with Great Britain, Germany, and France, referred to as the EU-3.

Bush said the consistent aim of the United States and the EU-3 is to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons or the means to develop them.

Asked about Europe, Bush discussed the importance of U.S.-European Union (EU) economic relations and the EU's role in the world.

"My vision is one [of Europe] that is economically strong, where the entrepreneurial spirit is vibrant," he said. "It's really helpful for our own economy to have a strong, vibrant Europe," said Bush.

He also said that "a strong Europe is one where we can work in common cause to spread freedom and democracy." The EU is important in encouraging reform in places such as Ukraine, Georgia and Kosovo, showing them "that with the right decision making by their governments, that they're a part of the greater Europe," Bush said.

And finally, "in terms of helping people who hurt, the EU can be a great partner with the United States," Bush added. "We can do a lot when we collaborate."

Following up his June 28 speech on Iraq, Bush said the United States will prevail in the struggle to bring freedom to Iraq by bring-

(Continued on page 16)

Bush Malaria, Education Initiatives Support Africa's Future

Two new initiatives announced June 30 by President Bush will attack one of the biggest killers in Africa -- malaria -- and support the continent's future by investing in the education of its children, especially girls, according to U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Andrew Natsios, who briefed the press the same day at the Department of State in Washington.

The president's malaria initiative aims to reduce malaria deaths by 50 percent in targeted African countries by the end of 2010, Natsios said. The United States will be responsible for 15 countries under the initiative and will begin work at the beginning of the next fiscal year in Tanzania, Uganda and Angola, he added.

The malaria initiative will ultimately affect countries with a total population of 175 million people, Natsios said, with the goal of getting 85 percent coverage of high-risk populations, which include children under age 5 and pregnant women.

Natsios noted that all branches of the U.S. government collectively spend a total of about \$235 million to fight malaria.

The new initiative, he said, will take the fight against malaria to a new level using four proven responses:

- Supplying long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets;

- Using Artemisinin Combination Therapy, which employs an herbal drug derived from the Asian wormwood plant that can be grown in Africa;

- Providing a dosage of an anti-malarial drug to pregnant women that helps reduce the incidence of absorption of malaria by the baby during childbirth; and

- Spraying insecticides in people's homes to kill the mosquitoes that are in the house at night.

"If you combine all these together and carefully target them, we know you can reduce the death rates significantly," Natsios said.

The president's education initiative in sub-Saharan Africa will provide \$100 million a year over four years, targeting basic education in grades one through 12 in 16 countries. It will provide scholarships for poor and vulnerable children.

"We are putting a heavy emphasis on scholarships to girls," Natsios said, because research has shown that "perhaps the most powerful investment in foreign assistance you can make is educating girls through high school."

This will cause child mortality rates to drop, family incomes to rise, agricultural production to increase, family size to decrease, and the number of very early marriages to decline, he explained. In addition, he said, "if a mother is educated through high school, it's a very high likelihood that she will insist that her children be educated."

The education initiative will also train 500,000 teachers and administrators, begin a school rehabilitation and construction program, produce 10 million new textbooks, and begin to build a textbook publishing and printing capacity in Af-

rica "so these books are printed, published, written in Africa and distributed in Africa by African companies," Natsios said. "Because we think that's the way of making this capacity develop sufficiently to make the program self-sustainable even after the funding stops."

Thus, the president's education initiative "is a powerful development tool that we believe will change the dynamic in many societies and many countries," Natsios said.

Responding to a question, Natsios noted that "we're facing multiple emergencies" in Africa now. "The president has pledged with Tony Blair a large-scale effort to deal with the food emergency in Africa, both in terms of food aid, but also in terms of what we call 'non-food assistance,' which includes water and sanitation and immunization programs to make sure that disease doesn't spread and also shelter programs to care for people," he said.

"We urge other donor governments to step up to the plate and to join Britain and the United States in this effort because we cannot do this alone," Natsios said.

For additional information, see U. S. Aid to Africa (http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid_to_africa.html).

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

U.S. Aid Efforts to Africa Are Unmatched, Says Official

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S. commitment to help the developing world, particularly Africa, achieve good health and prosperity is unmatched, says Paul Reid, a top economic adviser at the State Department.

At the same time Reid, who is senior adviser to the Office of the Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs, told the House Subcommittee on Africa June 30 that he disagrees with the focus of a plan by British Prime Minister Tony Blair to radically increase aid to the continent over the next 10 years.

The official spoke in advance of the Group of Eight (G8) Summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, July 6-8. President Bush and Blair have agreed to make the development needs of sub-Saharan Africa a top agenda item at the gathering, but their approaches differ, with Bush emphasizing quality over quantity in aid levels.

Reid summed up the mood of the administration, as well as many in Congress, toward aid to Africa as he concluded: "We will continue to pursue smarter ways to provide more and better aid. But we will do so with the knowledge that more money alone is not the answer and may prove to be counterproductive for those nations that lack adequate governance and capacity to effectively utilize that aid."

Reid told lawmakers: "The United States is deeply committed to helping the poor in Africa and elsewhere. No single country on earth

can match our record. This [Bush] administration has overseen the most significant increase of development assistance since the Marshall Plan. ODA [official development assistance] nearly doubled from \$10 billion to \$19 billion from 2000 to 2004."

Working multilaterally with other partners in the West, Reid said the United States "played a critically important leadership role in recently concluding the tenth replenishment of resources for the African Development Fund [ADF]." As a result, he said, "more than \$5 billion will be available over the next three years to the poorest countries of Africa for such priorities as water supply and sanitation, private sector development, regional integration and post-conflict reconstruction and stabilization."

Conscious of the fact that Congress must appropriate taxpayers' money to fund such aid programs in Africa, Reid told the lawmakers, "We are looking at where we could provide additional resources to support good performers, encourage more reform, support efforts to improve governance, address critical health and education issues and generally build on what is working in Africa."

With that in mind, Reid said he did not agree with the Blair plan of aid to the continent outlined in a report by the Commission for Africa (CfA), established by the prime minister two years ago to study how best to channel development assistance to the continent.

While "we applaud Prime Minister Blair's timely decision to focus on

Africa and development at next week's G8 Summit at Gleneagles," Reid told the subcommittee, "we disagree with the report's conclusion that a massive amount of new money is the solution to Africa's development needs."

He said the CfA's "\$25 billion per year price tag over the next five years, rising to \$50 billion per year after 2010, is not based on empirical evidence" and fails "to take fully into account serious issues related to weak governance and limited absorptive capacity."

Subcommittee Chairman Christopher Smith (Republican of New Jersey) echoed Reid's remarks, citing U.S. assistance levels: "The United States provided \$3.2 billion in official development assistance just to Africa last year [2004], which is a significant increase over aid levels to Africa in 2000."

"Our government is the largest provider of humanitarian assistance to Africa, providing \$1.4 billion in aid as of this year. We are providing more than \$379 million this year alone in humanitarian assistance for the people of Darfur, Sudan, and the Sudanese refugees who have fled to Chad."

There was more agreement between Bush and Blair on the issue of debt relief for the poorest of Africa's nations, according to Bobby Pittman Jr., deputy assistant secretary of the Treasury for international development finance and debt.

He told the lawmakers the "historic agreement" between Blair and President Bush to cancel about \$40 billion in debt for African na-

(Continued on page 10)

Bush to Increase U.S. Funding to Fight Malaria by \$1.2 Billion

Malaria is "highly treatable and preventable," President Bush told an audience in Washington June 30, as he announced an increase in U.S. funding for malaria prevention and treatment of more than \$1.2 billion over five years. With the additional funds, he said, he hopes to "cut the mortality rate for malaria across Africa in half."

The United States and its partners, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Marathon Oil Corporation and Noble Energy Incorporated, aim to reduce the number of deaths due to malaria through increased malaria interventions in five target countries: Angola, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Equatorial Guinea.

The more than \$1 billion in additional funding will be used to launch the initiative in Tanzania, Uganda and Angola in 2006; to expand work in the initial three countries and to launch the program in additional countries in 2007; to continue work in those countries already selected; and to launch efforts in additional countries in 2008 and 2009. The remainder is slated to be used in 2010 to benefit a total of 175 million people.

Following is the text of the White House fact sheet:

(begin fact sheet)

THE WHITE HOUSE Office of the Press Secretary June 30, 2005

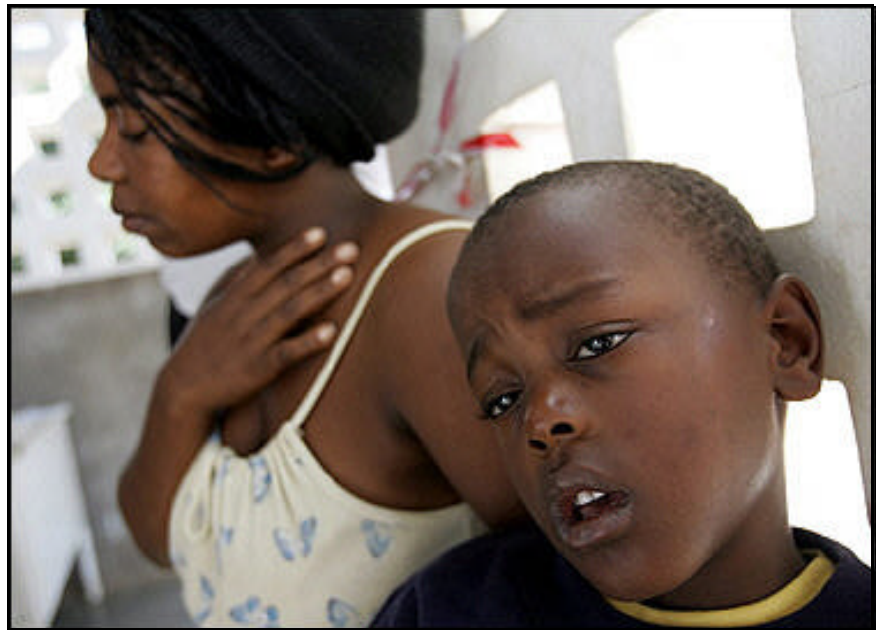
Fighting Malaria in Africa

"The toll of malaria is even more tragic because the disease itself is highly treatable and prevent-

able. Yet this is also our opportunity, because we know that large-scale action can defeat this disease in whole regions. And the world must take that action. Next week at the G-8, I will urge developed countries and private founda-

laria deaths by 50 percent in targeted African countries.

-- The additional funding provided by the United States will eventually benefit more than 175 million people in 15 or more African coun-



'It's Elton the third time this month he had malaria,' said teary-eyed Cacilde Francisco (L), pointing to her four-year-old nephew in the town Xai Xai. Malaria claims the life of a Mozambican child every 15 minutes. (AFP/Alexander Joe)

tions to join in a broad, aggressive campaign to cut the mortality rate for malaria across African in half."

President George W. Bush, June 30, 2005

Today's Action

-- Today, President Bush challenged the world to dramatically reduce malaria as a major killer of children in sub-Saharan Africa and pledged to increase funding of malaria prevention and treatment by more than \$1.2 billion over five years. The goal is to reduce ma-

tries. This commitment to expand malaria prevention and treatment programs in Africa is in addition to the \$200 million the U.S. spends today on malaria prevention, treatment, and research worldwide.

-- This initiative, in combination with a similar program announced by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and efforts by Marathon Oil Corporation and Noble Energy, Inc., will increase malaria interventions in five countries: Angola, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Equatorial Guinea.

(Continued on page 9)

Bush to Increase U.S. Funding to Fight . . .

(Continued from page 8)

-- The President calls on other donors, foundations, and private, public, and voluntary organizations to complement the United States commitments by providing additional funding.

Combating Malaria and Improving Lives

-- While malaria is both preventable and treatable if addressed properly and quickly, this disease is one of the greatest threats to human health and economic welfare on earth. Each year, malaria kills almost 1.2 million people, with the vast majority of victims being young children in Africa. Estimated yearly economic loss due to malaria is about \$12 billion, accounting for a crippling 1.3 percent annual loss in GDP growth in endemic countries.

-- The more than \$1 billion additional funding announced today will be used over the next five years to prevent and treat malaria in targeted, highly-endemic sub-Saharan African countries. Funding for this comprehensive initiative will include:

-- \$30 million to launch the initiative in Tanzania, Uganda, and Angola in 2006;

-- \$135 million to expand work in the initial three countries and to launch the program in additional countries in 2007;

-- \$300 million additional to continue work in those countries already selected and to launch ef-

forts in additional countries in 2008;

-- \$300 million in 2009; and

-- Increasing to \$500 million in 2010 with a goal of benefiting a total of 175 million people.

-- The Gates Foundation committed \$35 million to support malaria programs with other partners in Zambia. Marathon Oil Corporation with Noble Energy, Inc. and other partners have committed \$8.3 million for Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea.

-- With the combined efforts of all partners and national governments, the program would save hundreds of thousands of lives annually, meeting the Roll Back Malaria mortality goal for target countries.

-- These results will be accomplished by helping national governments achieve 85 percent coverage among vulnerable or high-risk populations with proven and effective prevention and treatment interventions.

-- The Initiative will scale up a comprehensive approach to malaria by combining proven and effective interventions for prevention and treatment that will:

-- Expand access to long-lasting insecticide treated nets and indoor residual spraying with approved insecticides.

-- Treat malaria through the prompt use of new artemisinin-based combination therapies or

other effective therapies which are internationally accepted treatments. These drugs will be made available through public and private sector outlets in target countries and be supported by information and education campaigns to improve care seeking and access.

-- Address malaria in pregnancy. Each year more than 30 million African women living in malaria-endemic areas become pregnant and are at risk for malaria infections, contributing to low birth weight and deaths among infants.

-- The United States will work in partnership with host country governments in Africa building on existing national programs. This initiative will also support the efforts of the Global Fund, the World Bank, Roll Back Malaria, and other donors.

The Initiative will support national programs and strategies for malaria, in collaboration with the Global Fund. This Initiative will procure drugs and other commodities and support logistics, management, communication, and training. The Initiative will also include comprehensive monitoring and evaluation, targeted operational research to improve on-the-ground implementation, and detailed reporting on inputs, outcomes, results, and impact.

(end fact sheet)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

President Announces \$400 Million for Africa Education Initiative

President Bush announced June 30 that the Africa Education Initiative, a continuing program administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development, will receive \$400 million in funding from 2006 to 2010 in order to extend quality and accessibility of basic education for millions of children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Following is the text of a White House fact sheet on the initiative, issued the same day:

(begin fact sheet)

THE WHITE HOUSE Office of the Press Secretary June 30, 2005

Africa Education Initiative (AEI)

"Africa's progress also depends on the education of Africa's children. ... If Africa is to meet its full potential, these children must have the chance to study and learn."

President George W. Bush, June 26, 2003

Today's Action

-- Today, President Bush announced \$400 million for the continuation of the Africa Education Initiative (AEI) over four years to improve the quality and accessibility of basic education for millions of children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Background

-- Societies must invest in education in order to fight poverty and ensure a better quality of life. AEI responds to such challenges by improving the quality and accessibility of basic education for millions of children in Africa.



School girls during USAID Administrator Natsios's 2003 visit to Ethiopia.

-- The \$400 million AEI funding announced today will span 2006 to 2010 and will be used to train teachers and administrators, award scholarships, build schools, buy textbooks, and expand opportunities inside and outside the classroom.

-- The goal of the AEI is to provide:

-- Training for 500,000 teachers and administrators;

-- 300,000 scholarships under the Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program with an emphasis on educational opportunities for females;

-- Development and distribution of 10-million textbooks and related learning and teaching materials;

-- Improved access for marginalized students and teachers to learning, education materials, and training;

-- Improved access to education and training for out-of-school

youth, orphans, and other vulnerable children; and

-- Improved access to productivity-increasing job skills training and development

(end fact sheet)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

U.S. Aid Efforts to Africa . . .

(Continued from page 7)

tions was a "critical breakthrough" in relieving a crushing burden on 14 sub-Saharan Africa nations.

Pittman said: "Since Monterrey [the International Conference for Financing Development in 2002], we've seen an amazing evolution of U.S. official development assistance. While others are delivering promises, the U.S. has been delivering substantial increases. For some 30 years prior to this administration, the U.S. provided roughly 15 percent of all official aid to Africa. Over the past two years the U.S. represented nearly a quarter of all official assistance to the continent."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Bush Announces \$55 Million for Women's Empowerment in Africa

President Bush, having previously stated that "women and children should never be exploited for pleasure or greed, anywhere on earth," on June 30 announced a new program intended to provide approximately \$55 million to support women's justice and empowerment in Africa.

A White House fact sheet said that the initiative will assist current efforts of four African countries to combat sexual violence and abuse against women, and empower them in society. As the programs in these four nations develop, the administration predicts their successes will produce a ripple effect through other countries in their regions, the statement continued.

The \$55 million will be used to strengthen the capacity of the legal system to protect women and punish offenders, to rehabilitate victims, to increase public awareness women's rights, and to complement America's ongoing efforts to stem the spread of HIV/AIDS and fight trafficking in persons.

Following is the White House fact sheet, issued June 30:

(begin fact sheet)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
June 30, 2005

Women's Justice and Empowerment in Africa

"Because we believe in human dignity, America and many nations have joined together to confront

the evil of trafficking in human beings Women and children should never be exploited for pleasure or greed, anywhere on Earth."

President George W. Bush, September 21, 2004

and punish violators by training police, prosecutors, and judges in sexual violence and abuse cases against women, and developing or strengthening laws, which protect women and empower their role in society.



Today's Action

-- Today, President Bush announced approximately \$55 million to support women's justice and empowerment in Africa. This initiative will work to assist the existing efforts of four African countries to combat sexual violence and abuse against women, and empower them in society. As the programs in these four nations develop, their successes will produce a ripple effect through other countries in their regions.

Protecting and Empowering Women

-- The \$55 million will be used to bolster women's justice and empowerment in Africa by:

-- Strengthening the capacity of the legal system to protect women

-- Rehabilitating, reintegrating, and empowering former victims in society by bolstering the capacity of shelters and counseling programs, and addressing health care needs of women.

-- Increasing awareness of the need for women's justice and empowerment, through high-level engagement, conferences, public awareness, and education.

-- Women's Justice and the Link to HIV/AIDS: The \$55 million announced today would complement America's ongoing efforts to stem the spread of HIV/AIDS and fight human trafficking.

-- In January 2003, the President announced the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), a five-year, \$15-billion initiative to combat the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. Prosti-

(Continued on page 22)

LIVE 8 to Span Globe with Nine Different Concerts

By Michael O'Toole
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- It's being billed by its organizer as the "greatest political lobby ever formed." LIVE 8, a star-studded, globe-spanning concert event, is expected to attract millions to concerts July 2 in Group of Eight (G8) countries Canada, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States as well as South Africa. As many as 1 billion more are expected to tune in via television, radio and the Internet.

LIVE 8 is the successor to Live Aid -- a 1985 concert event also conceived by Bob Geldof, onetime Irish punk-rock musician turned political activist and Nobel Laureate, as a benefit for African famine victims. LIVE 8's mission is not fundraising, however, but awareness: according to its Web site, the event is meant to "[Call] on the leaders of the world's richest countries to act" when they meet in Gleneagles, Scotland, July 6-8 for the annual G8 summit.

Event organizers have said that they hope to raise global awareness of poverty in Africa and thus influence G8 leaders to move decisively on debt relief and effective aid programs for the world's poorest people.

Development in Africa is expected to top the agenda at the G8 summit. President Bush reaffirmed the United States' commitment to Africa and U.S. support for political and economic reform on the continent in a June 30 speech in Washington. Saying that the United States has tripled overseas development aid to Africa

during his presidency, Bush proposed "to double aid to Africa once again" between 2004 and 2010, "with a primary focus on

The nine simultaneous shows this weekend -- in London, Philadelphia, Paris, Rome, Berlin, To-



Irish rock stars Bono (R) and The Edge of the band U2 perform at the Live 8 concert in Hyde Park in London.

helping reforming countries."

Speaking at the White House July 1, Press Secretary Scott McClellan said, "I think any effort that draws attention to helping the people of Africa can only be helpful. We appreciated some of the comments from people like Bono who's been very involved. ... [I]t was very complimentary of the initiatives that we're undertaking in Africa and the president's efforts."

As for Bono, the Irish rock star who has been equally renowned the past several years for his part in seeking aid to underdeveloped nations, he will return to his more traditional role as lead singer with U2 at the London show -- a feat he also performed at the original Live Aid event.

kyo, Ontario, Johannesburg and Moscow -- will also showcase other Live Aid alumni as Madonna, Sting, Paul McCartney, Elton John, Mick Jagger and David Bowie. But the lineup also includes many that have grown up since then, or -- in the case of 18-year old Scottish pop star Joss Stone -- were not even born yet.

LIVE 8 Japan will be the first concert to take place on July 2 and will start at 1400 hours local time, or 0300 GMT. Icelandic singer Bjork, U.S. band Good Charlotte and U.K. pop group McFly are on the bill for the event, to take place at the 20,000-capacity Makuhari Messe.

The event moves on at 1200

(Continued on page 13)

LIVE 8 to Span Globe with Nine Different . . .

(Continued from page 12)

hours GMT to Johannesburg, where Luky Dube, Mahotella Queens and the 4Peace Ensemble are slated to perform. At 1400 hours in Moscow, the Pet Shop Boys will take the stage, among others.

The showcase in London kicks off at 1500 GMT with veteran acts like the Rolling Stones and Pink Floyd sharing the stage with such contemporary stars as Joss Stone, Dido and Coldplay. The Berlin show also commences at 1500, where pop legends Brian Wilson (whose band the Beach Boys performed in 1985) and Crosby, Stills and Nash appear with contemporary rockers Green Day and Audioslave, as does the show in Rome with Tim McGraw, Faith Hill and Duran Duran.

The Palais de Versailles near Paris is the venue that gets under way at 1600 hours, where classical Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli, Latin pop superstar Shakira, and the great Sudanese singer Youssou N'Dour are billed with Godfather of Soul James Brown.

In Barrie, Ontario, at 1700 hours, Brian Adams, another veteran of the original Live Aid, will appear

with fellow Canadians Celine Dion, Neil Young and Barenaked Ladies.

At 1800 GMT, the Philadelphia show begins with hip-hop performers Destiny's Child, Jay-Z and the

The organizers are calling for the worldwide audience to sign a petition of support and/or download their photographs onto the LIVE 8 Web site. "Every name on the LIVE 8 list -- and every photo sent to live8live.com -- will be taken ... directly to Gleneagles on the eve of the most important summit in the fight against poverty," the Web site says.

The LIVE 8 organizers predict that the event "is on course to attract: The largest ever TV audience; the busiest website in the world; the largest ever online petition ... the largest ever text petition; the largest ever response to a TV show."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦



Will Smith does a sound check for the Live8 concert at the Philadelphia Art Museum in Philadelphia July 1, 2005

Black Eyed Peas on the same billing as country star Toby Keith, classic rockers Bon Jovi and Def Leopard, along with the newer Linkin Park and rhythm and blues star Alicia Keys as well as the legendary Stevie Wonder.

Bush Hails Independence Day, "Enduring Power of Our Ideals"

President Bush's proclamation honoring the celebration of Independence Day is a reminder that "Since July 4, 1776 ... our Nation has defended and advanced liberty."

Bush stated that "In our time ... America continues to proclaim liberty throughout the world, and we remain a country full of hope and promise where opportunity thrives, where all stand equal before the law, and where our freedoms are celebrated."

In sending his best wishes to all Americans, the president proclaimed that "Americans live in freedom because of the enduring power of our ideals."

Following is the text of the president's proclamation:

(begin text)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
July 1, 2005

INDEPENDENCE DAY, 2005

Since July 4, 1776, Americans have experienced freedom's power to overcome tyranny, inspire hope in times of trial, and turn the creative gifts of men and women to the pursuits of peace. Across generations, our Nation has defended and advanced liberty.

The words of our Founding Fathers first guided a country of 4 million souls, yet they put large events in motion. When the Lib-

erty Bell sounded at the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, one who witnessed the birth of freedom in our country said, "It rang as if it meant some-

continues to defend our Nation and spread freedom. On this Fourth of July, we honor the brave men and women of our military, and their families, and we express



An estimated 3,000 celebrated Independence Day Monday, July 4, 2005, by cheering on President George W. Bush as he spoke at West Virginia University in Morgantown. White House photo by Krisanne Johnson

thing." In our time it means something still. America continues to proclaim liberty throughout the world, and we remain a country full of hope and promise where opportunity thrives, where all stand equal before the law, and where our freedoms are celebrated.

Americans live in freedom because of the enduring power of our ideals. In the midst of World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt reminded our troops that our Nation believes in the "right to liberty under God -- for all peoples and races and groups and nations, everywhere in the world." Today, a new generation of Americans

our gratitude for their courage, dedication to duty, and love of country.

Laura and I send our best wishes to all Americans on Independence Day. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

GEORGE W. BUSH

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Islam Has Deep Roots in America, Experts Say

By Judy Aita
Washington File United Nations
Correspondent

United Nations -- The roots of Islam have spread wide and deep in the United States and are so much a part of the American experience that many do not even realize the connection, experts in Islamic studies say.

The influence of Islam in America was brought into focus by an exhibition of the 1831 autobiography of Omar Ibn Said, a slave brought to the United States from West Africa. The book is the only known autobiography of a slave written while enslaved, and includes a chapter from the Quran, *Surat al-Mulk* (Dominion).

The autobiography, written in Arabic, describes some of the events in Omar Ibn Said's life, his steadfast adherence to Islam, and his openness to other "God-fearing people."

The exhibit is on display in the main lobby of the U.N. headquarters building from June 27 to July 1. A panel discussion on "Roots of Islam in America" was held in conjunction with the opening of the exhibit.

Omar Ibn Said was born in Futa Turo region between the Senegal and Gambia Rivers in the 1700s and spent 25 years studying prominent Muslim scholars of the region. In 1807, he was captured

during a military conflict, enslaved by his enemies, sold to Europeans, and shipped to North Carolina where he toiled for a plantation owner until his death in 1864.

The autobiography, considered one of the treasures of antebellum literature, had been missing since the 1920s. It was discovered in an old trunk in Virginia in 1995 and sold at an auction in 1998 to Derrick Beard, a collector of 18th, 19th and 20th century Islamic-American and African-American artifacts.

The manuscript, Beard said, shows that Islam is not new to America. The autobiography was originally owned by an abolitionist, who wanted to demonstrate that blacks were not inferior, he added.

The panel, composed of African-American and Islamic-American scholars, moved beyond the exhibit to talk of the legacies and strengths that Muslim immigrants have added to the United States along with the hundreds of other ethnic and religious groups, who came here voluntarily in search of a new life or, like Omar Ibn Said, were shipped here as slaves.

Muslims continue to add to the rich culture of the United States in ways that are now so ingrained that they are thought of as "American." Most Americans

have to be reminded that some of their favorite music, or words they use, have their roots in Islam. Omar Ibn Said's descendants and those of other slaves have long been freed, and American Muslims now have a significant presence in the United States and rank among the world's most popular and respected musicians, athletes, scholars, and architects, to name a few professions, the panelists said.



Sylviane Diouf

Sylviane Diouf, researcher at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, said that one of the most important legacies from the early Muslims is the "triumph of the human spirit."

"Imagine yourself as a slave cutting cane sun up to sun down, or picking cotton and still you think of yourself as a scholar, as a religious leader, as a student, and you write," Diouf continued. "When you get paper, you copy the Bible or Quran for yourself. You organize schools to teach your children how to read and write and all that while being enslaved. Doing all this in secret. That is the triumph of the human spirit."

Diouf also talked about the traces of Islamic influence on music, cultural traditions and vocabulary in the Americas that remain strong today.

In the music form known as the blues "the Islamic way of chanting, the call to prayer ... is all there," Diouf said.

Zahid Bukhari, fellow at the Cen-



Omar Ibn Said

(Continued on page 16)

Islam Has Deep Roots in America . . .

(Continued from page 15)

ter for Muslim-Christian Understanding of Georgetown University, said that if Muslims worldwide were asked to name the five most beloved Muslim personalities of the 20th century, "I'm confident two personalities from America will be part of those five: Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X."

Bukhari said that through his research he has found that currently the American Muslim community is above the U.S. national average in education, is younger and has a higher percentage of professionals, scholars and experts in all fields than Muslim communities anywhere in the world.

Bukhari also talked of the "horizontal spread and vertical depth" of the roots of American Muslim community.

In the United States today, "35 percent of Muslims were born in the United States; 64 percent were born in 80 different countries. This is the spread of the di-

versity in the American Muslim community," he said.

"If you are a Muslim from any part of the globe and you would like to see another Muslim from another part of the globe you have only two options in this world: either you go to Hajj so you can find that Muslim or come to America



Zahid Bukhari

and you will find that Muslim. That is the diversity of the Muslim community," Bukhari said.

Omar Ibn Said transcribed one chapter of the Quran in 1831, he said, but other slaves and free blacks also transcribed the Quran in America. In one incident during the Civil War, a southern city was facing destruction when local college officials asked that the Union Army allow books to be saved. "Only one copy was saved from the whole library and that was a copy of the Quran," Bukhari said.

Beard, owner of the autobiography, said that as he travels throughout the United States in some inner cities he sees "the only true economic vitality and life" in the Muslim communities. "I see commerce, a sense of morality, a sense of respect."

"Islam has created a major, positive impact in the United States," he said.

However, Beard said, after traveling through the Middle East recently he found that Muslims in other parts of the world had little understanding of life in the United States. They have a "totally different perception, no knowledge of the economic phenomenon taking place in America, no knowledge of the ethnic and religious diversity of America," he said.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

U.S. Seeks to Expand Partnerships with African . . .

(Continued from page 5)

ing terrorists there to justice, as well as training Iraqi security forces in order to secure their country.

He said Iraqis do not want foreign fighters in their country "stopping the progress toward freedom."

"There is a freedom movement taking place around the world. You've seen it in Europe with

Ukraine and Georgia, and we're seeing it in the Middle East," said Bush.

"I do believe people want to be free regardless of their religion or where they're from. I do believe women should be empowered in the Middle East," he said. "I don't believe we ought to accept forms of government that ultimately create a hopelessness that then can be translated into jihadist violence.

And I believe strongly that the ultimate way you defeat an ideology is with a better ideology. And history has proven that."

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Number of International Travelers to U.S. Growing, Commerce Says

By Katie Xiao
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Travel agents, airlines, convention centers and universities take note: The results are in, and they indicate that international traffic to the United States is on the rise.

Figures from a June 29 U.S. Department of Commerce report show an increase in international visitors who flocked to American cities in 2004.

"The 13 percent [total] growth in arrivals to the U.S. for 2004 represents the best single-year growth in overseas arrivals to the country since 1995," Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Services Douglas B. Baker said. "The strong showing by U.S. destinations illustrates the diversity and interest that international visitors have in our states, cities and territories."

The surge in international visitors to the United States indicates that the flow of travel to the United States has not diminished despite the security concerns that arose after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the visa requirements put in place to address them.

As a free and open society, the United States welcomes citizens from around the world who wish to vacation, do business or study within its borders. Instituting new visa procedures following the September 11 attacks allowed the United States to keep its doors open while ensuring the safety of

U.S. residents and visitors alike.

Statistics from the Commerce Department's Office of Travel and Tourism Industries (OTTI) suggest that international visitors are not deterred by U.S. visa procedures, but rather are receptive to and are adapting to them.

OTTI documented that the average number of days between deciding to travel and beginning travel has increased for both business and leisure travelers from their respective figures in 2003, showing that travelers are giving themselves more pre-trip preparation time for ensuring the smooth accomplishment of required security and visa processes, as U.S. visa offices have recommended.

The Department of Commerce figures show that many international visitors perceive the United States to be a safe and welcoming environment for business or leisure. In 2004, the majority of travelers were repeat visitors. Only 24 percent of all overseas tourist arrivals were first-time visitors.

The region with the greatest frequency of U.S.-inbound tourism in 2004 was Western Europe, with 45.8 percent of all international tourists. The next highest was Asia, with 28.5 percent. From individual countries, the United States received the most visitors from Great Britain and the second-most from Japan.

The majority of visitors were attracted to the United States for recreational purposes, but many also visited friends and relatives or

conducted business during their stay. Others traveled to the United States to participate in educational opportunities such as conventions, academic study and teaching.

OTTI generates its annual and monthly travel figures from traveler-supplied responses provided to travel agents, tour companies and a few other sources. The office classifies all nonresident tourist arrivals as inbound tourism.

Among the 32 cities and 22 states/territories that posted double-digit visitor growth rates, Virginia, New York, Arizona and Utah made the greatest gains in growth as compared to the previous year's estimates. New York, the most favored port-of-entry, surpassed Florida and California to become the most popular state to visit.

In a breakdown of travel by city, a quarter of all tourists selected New York City for their leisure or business activities, while Washington, Las Vegas and Chicago followed closely behind as cities with the highest international visitor traffic growth.

Additional information (<http://www.tinet.ita.doc.gov/view/m-2005-I-001/index.html>) from the Department of Commerce on overseas visitors is available on the department's Web site.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Visiting Students Find Americans Don't Fit Stereotypes

By Phyllis McIntosh
Washington File Special Correspondent

Washington -- More than 230 high school students from six countries concluded a year of study in the United States with a visit to Washington, where they were addressed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and met with U.S. senators, ambassadors from their home countries and other dignitaries.

The group included 161 students from Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Turkey, all participants in the Department of State's Partnerships for Learning Youth Exchange and Study (P4L YES) Program, which provides scholarships for high school students from countries with significant Muslim populations to spend up to one academic year living with host families and attending school in the United States. In 2004-2005, its third year, the YES program hosted 455 teenagers from the Middle East, Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia.

Also part of the group were 70 German students who were in the United States under the auspices of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange, which was created in 1983 by the U.S. Congress and German Bundestag and provides for exchanges of 800 American

and German high-school students every year. The Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs administers both programs.

"There is nothing more important than getting people from other countries to the United States and people from the United States to other countries because whatever differences we might have about

dents," she added.

In a conversation with the Washington File, young people from Malaysia, Indonesia and Germany described how they discovered that most Americans do not fit the negative stereotypes they heard in their home countries.

"I really like that Americans are so friendly and open to people

they don't know," said Christina, 17, from Germany. "Like in the checkout line at Wal-Mart, somebody just taps you on the shoulder and asks how are you and wants to know if you have a good day and can you recommend these candies. I really enjoyed that."

For Ee Mun, 17, from Johou Bahru, the second largest city in Malaysia, it was a culture shock to be placed with a family in a town of 2,000 in Wisconsin. "I thought uh-oh, this will be a new experience," she said. "But in a

small town, everybody knows each other, so they're really friendly. When you're out on the street, you know at least 10 people who walk past."

Christina, who spent her year in



On August 4, 2004, over 200 YES scholarship students arrived in Washington, D.C. to participate in AYUSA's Student Arrival Orientation. In only its second year, the P4L YES (Partnerships for Learning Youth Exchange and Study) program has already become a huge success.

policy or various actions that we take, there is no better way to bridge differences than for people to know people from various countries," Secretary Rice told the students. "And there's no better way to start that than with young people and with high school stu-

(Continued on page 19)

Visiting Students Find Americans Don't . . .

(Continued from page 18)

Paola, Kansas, population 6,000, summed up the feelings of the group when she noted that "it's more the people you meet that make the experience than the size of your town."

Some of the young people said they were surprised to learn that not all Americans are as rich as television and movies portray. Fadillah, 16, from Indonesia, reported that through her work with a school club at a local charity organization "I saw a lot of people in poverty who need clothes and need money [for food] to fill their stomachs."

Guruparan ("Guru") Dharmalingam, 17, from Malaysia, was struck by the way American teachers interact with students. "Here [teachers] are much more concerned with the students," he notes. "It is easier to get in touch with the teacher and get help."

All of the students gave numerous talks at their schools and before church and civic groups to introduce Americans to their homelands and to their religions, which include Hinduism and Buddhism, as well as Islam. But much of the education took place among small groups of teenagers.

Fadillah recalled that she was the only Muslim at her school in suburban Fort Wayne, Indiana, and some students thought she was "weird" for wearing the hijab. "The first time I was at school people were staring at me," she said. "At lunch I asked one group can I join

with you, and they started asking why do you have to wear this, what is it called, what does it mean." After she explained her Muslim beliefs, "they were more open-minded and had more respect for what I look like," she said.

American teenagers were eager to know about daily life in their countries, the exchange students said. "Some ask do you have cars, do you ride on elephants," Ee Mun recalled. Christina got "many questions about the autobahn [German highway] because we can drive on most parts of it without speed limit." She added that many, though hesitant to ask, also were interested in Germany's role in World War II "and if we are taught about it in school. Of course, we are taught, because nobody should forget. Actually, I was glad people asked because this way we can avoid misunderstandings."

During their stay in the United States, the students participated in a remarkable range of activities. Fadillah raised \$700 in four days to benefit victims of the December 2004 tsunami. Another young woman from Indonesia mounted a huge fund-raising effort in her host town in Pennsylvania and collected more than \$5,000 for tsunami-relief organizations. A young man from Egypt used his knowledge of Arabic to tutor Somalian refugees in his host town in Wisconsin.

Guru, who stayed with a family in a suburb of Birmingham, Alabama, won a gold medal in a state marketing championship for developing an advertising campaign for

a local business and traveled to California to participate in a national competition at a marketing leaders conference. He also won a bronze medal at a regional science olympiad.

Ee Mun had a leading role in the school play. Cristina played flute in the school band, learned to play golf and painted a mural for the sheriff's office in her host town. She also took up clogging (a form of dance that originated in the mountains of the eastern United States) and danced in local recitals and the Kansas City St. Patrick's Day parade.

When they return home, the students said, they will tell people that America is not like they thought and will urge their friends to visit the United States if at all possible. They pledged to continue to do their part to bridge the gap between nations by staying in touch with their American friends and families. "It's not like a relationship between my president and your president, but maybe from my friends and me we can spread it out and make a better relationship between our countries," Fadillah said.

Guru summed it up well when he noted, "It's small exchanges like this that make the big difference in the long run."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

"Food Culture USA" Highlights Diversity of American Cuisine

By Carrie Loewenthal
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- If asked to show-case in one dish the convergence of diverse cultures in modern American cuisine, chef Ed LaDou would have no problem. He would make a pizza.

That is exactly what he did in cooking demonstrations at the 2005 Smithsonian Folklife Festival on Washington's National Mall as part of the Food Culture USA exhibit.

"My goal is to bring in all the influences that have been assimilated into American culture," said LaDou, who owns and cooks at Caioti Pizza Café in Los Angeles. He incorporates everything from Latin to Thai to Caribbean flavors into his food, and for the festival audience he made a wild mushroom pizza, a pizza with bamboo, his signature barbecue chicken pizza, and the experimental "Jewish pizza" -- crust, a thin layer of schmaltz (chicken fat), mozzarella cheese, julienne carrots, celery and onions, pieces of chicken, and gribenes (bits of fried chicken skin) for a touch of "crispiness."

"It's chicken soup without the soup," he said.

LaDou's self-proclaimed "Americanization of pizza," which refers to all of the amalgamations of cultural tastes he has combined on top of round crusts, exemplifies the celebration of diversity central to Food Culture USA.

Funded in large part by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with

food, equipment and assistance from private donors, Food Culture USA gives festival visitors an array of gastronomic adventures.

A visitor could watch renowned chef Emeril Lagasse make Creole style gumbo on the Beyond the Melting Pot stage, then taste Steve Herrell's homemade ice cream in the Garden Kitchen tent, or venture over to the Edible

"Everyone enjoys all the different cuisine, even in Clarksdale, Mississippi," Gilroy said in reference to his hometown. "People in America are changing. We have a Mexican restaurant, a Lebanese restaurant, and this is in this tiny little town," added Sally.

LaDou agreed with the Chows about the development of American tastes.



2005 Smithsonian Folklife Festival
Opening Ceremony

Schoolyard Ramada where Berkeley, California, chef Alice Waters has set up a replica of her garden project. In Berkeley she teaches middle school students about nutrition and the origins of organic produce by letting them grow and cook their own food.

Then, if still hungry, festival guests could catch Gilroy and Sally Chow on the Home Cooking stage whipping up Chinese food inspired by the culture of the Mississippi Delta: imagine fried rice with ham and bacon. The grandchildren of Chinese immigrants, the Chows have also added traditional Chinese flavors to such Southern staples as collard greens and crawfish.

"People's expectations are a little higher. Tastes and preferences are a little broader than they used to be. It's a result of the diversity of choices available," he said.

Food Culture USA also encouraged festival visitors to support organic food produc-

ers. "American consumers are demanding a greater variety of food,"

she said, "and they want to know where their food comes from and how it was produced," said Chef Joan Nathan, who helped to organize the exhibition. For instance, consumers will ask if beef comes from a family farm and if the cows were fed organically.

El Ceibo, a Bolivian federation of 38 cooperatives of small cocoa farmers, is committed to the idea of organic farming. Federation President Mario Choque Quisbert came to the Folk Festival to participate in the "Global Sources" exhibition. He told festival visitors about the cocoa bean's journey from farms where it is grown to Bolivia's capital, La Paz, and on-

(Continued on page 21)

"Food Culture USA" Highlights Diversity . . .

(Continued from page 20)

ward around the world.

"Seventy-five percent of what we make we export," said Quisbert, speaking through an interpreter. He said the federation requires that members practice organic farming techniques in order to "manufacture in an environmentally responsible way and at the same time improve the living standards of the people living in the co-ops [cooperatives]."

Quisbert welcomed the opportunity to "educate the American public" about Bolivian cocoa and to expand El Ceibo's presence in the U.S. market by attracting more American Fair Trade partners—producers committed to providing fair wages to economically disadvantaged farmers.

Tanzanian coffee farmer David Robinson told a similar story in the next tent over. Robinson, who moved from New York to Tanzania 21 years ago, is the son of Jackie Robinson, one of America's most famous baseball players and the first African-American to play in the modern major leagues.

David Robinson represents the Mshikamano Farmers Group, a cooperative of 300 small farmers. The cooperative provides coffee to Robinson's independent brand, Sweet Unity Farms, which began selling internationally in 1999.

"These are second and third generation coffee farmers whose communities have remained poor," he said. "Our effort [at the festival] is to both let the American population know the work that goes into coffee farming and to try to gain the consumer support for co-op marketed or directly marketed Fair Trade coffees."



2005 Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Mshikamano Farmers Group recently received its first-ever external financing, in the form of a five-year interest-free loan from the African Development Foundation, a U.S. government agency that provides direct financing to African enterprises and community-based organizations.

In addition to chocolate and coffee, Food Culture USA offered exhibits on organic dairy and soy production, organic teas, international spices and food safety. The public could discuss food topics with festival exhibitors in the Around the

Table tent, or participate in a traditional Argentine asado -- or barbecue -- in the Slow Roast area. In the Local and National section, professional chefs demonstrated unique craft techniques, such as carving a model of an American football player out of jicama, watermelon, eggplant and other garden delights.

And for a mysterious ailment or heat-induced malaise, festival guests could talk to Eva Castellanoz, the daughter of an Aztec father and Otomi mother, who is the Mishica tribe healer in her town in Oregon. She knows that lavender and linden tree, which she found in the grass next to her display, help depression, while plantain cures athlete's foot.

Castellanoz has a broad base of herbal knowledge. Her healing skills, she said, come from "my parents and the parents and the parents and the parents before them."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SECTION
AMERICAN EMBASSY**

P.O.Box 1014
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Phone: 251-1-174007
251-1-174000
Fax: 251-1-242454
Email: pasaddis@state.gov

Web site
[http://
ethiopia.
usembassy.
gov](http://ethiopia.usembassy.gov)

Bush Announces \$55 Million for Women's . . .

(Continued from page 11)

tution, trafficking of individuals into prostitution, sexual violence, and sexual victimization of women and children are considered factors in the spread of HIV/AIDS. During last year's G-8 focus on HIV and tuberculosis, G-8 members also acknowledged how sexual violence against women and girls has contributed significantly to the spread of the HIV virus.

-- Empowerment of Women through the Legal System: Many African nations have already taken steps to improve legal rights for women, including new sexual offenses laws, higher penalties for sexually violent offenses against women, anti-trafficking and prostitution legislation, and laws which grant women greater rights to property and inheritance.

-- The four target countries identified for this program have all taken some steps, but require additional

support and technical assistance for adequate implementation including: police, investigative, prosecutorial, and judicial training and assistance; the development of DNA labs and other specialized equipment; the establishment of Hotline numbers for reporting rape or violence; the development of laws criminalizing violence and abuse against women and new evidentiary rules to protect the identity of women; and the development of women's empowerment laws.

(end fact sheet)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Journal Offers Background, History of U.S. Supreme Court

Washington -- In light of the July 1 announcement that Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor will retire, the State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP) April 2005 electronic journal devoted to the subject of the high court is a particularly valuable information resource.

The Supreme Court of the United States: Highest Court in the Land -- now available in English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish -- features an introduction by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and articles on the court's role and composition will provide excellent context for any

discussion of a new judicial appointment by the president.



The U.S. Supreme Court

One article reviews the issues involved in nominating a new justice and how these selections have been handled over the years.

The journal is available in English (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/0405/ijde/ijde0405.htm?id=nl20050504>) and other languages on <http://usinfo.state.gov/>. PDF versions suitable for downloading and printing are also available.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦